

County of San Diego
Revised: June 9, 2003
Reviewed: Spring 2003

PSYCHIATRIST I
PSYCHIATRIST II
PSYCHIATRIST III

Class No. 004198
Class No. 004196
Class No. 004199

DEFINITION:

To perform professional psychiatric work involving the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of clients receiving county mental health services; and to perform related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Psychiatrists are licensed physicians specializing in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of mental health disorders. This class series differs from other physician classes by completion of a residency program in psychiatry.

Psychiatrist I:

Under general supervision, this class exercises independent medical judgement in the diagnosis and treatment of adults, children and adolescents at a county mental health facility, clinic, emergency room or in the community.

Psychiatrist II:

Under general direction, this class acts as a lead-worker providing technical guidance and leadership to subordinate Psychiatrist I's and staff, and acts in the absence of the Supervising Psychiatrist. It differs from the next higher-level class Psychiatrist III in that the latter is responsible for providing diagnosis and treatment in child, adolescent psychiatry or forensic psychiatry.

Psychiatrist III:

Under general direction, this class exercises independent judgement in the diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents or provides forensic services to the courts. It differs from the next higher class, Supervising Psychiatrist in that the latter is responsible for full administrative and supervisory responsibilities for the psychiatric and other medical services of a particular service, ward, or unit.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Conducts comprehensive psychiatric evaluations, diagnosis, and treatment of patients under direct care/supervision and patients with mental and emotional disorders; obtains/reviews data pertaining to case diagnosis and evaluation; orders and/or administers treatment as appropriate; conducts group and individual psychotherapy sessions; prepares written reports and records of services rendered; counsels families and relatives regarding patient problems and course of treatment; delivers talks and confers with community groups and agencies on mental health problems; participates in the training of resident psychiatrists, practicum students and ancillary staff; and participates in medical staff committee work as assigned.

Psychiatrist II (in addition to the above):

Assumes medical responsibilities for psychiatric evaluations, diagnosis and treatment of the most difficult psychiatric cases; acts as a lead-worker providing technical guidance and training to subordinates; and may supervise psychiatrists in the absence of a Supervising Psychiatrist.

Psychiatrist III (in addition to the above):

Psychiatrists may be assigned to any of the following units:

Child and Adolescent:

Psychiatrists assigned to these units assume medical responsibility for the psychiatric evaluations, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescents in county mental health facilities; conducts medical assessments of school children exhibiting behavioral problems; evaluates and treats delinquent youths at county youth detention facilities.

Forensic:

Evaluates mental and psychosocial status of individuals when requested by the courts; testifies in court regarding individuals' competency to stand trial; and conducts treatment of both new and on-going patients.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Psychiatrist I
II = Psychiatrist II
III = Psychiatrist III

Knowledge of:

<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	
T	T	T	Mental illness and psychiatric/emotional disorder, emphasizing the diagnostic and treatment methodologies.
T	T	T	General medicine and its relationship to mental illness.
T	T	T	Preventive medicine.
T	T	T	Psychopharmacology.
T	T	T	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
G	G	G	California Mental Health Services Act.
G	G	G	Title 22 Acute Psychiatric Hospital Regulations.
G	G	G	Community organizations, with particular regard to medical and mental health services, programs and facilities.
G	G	G	Psychosocial Rehabilitation.
--	G	T	Principles and practices of psychiatric administration.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Diagnose and treat a wide range and severity of mental health disorders, and provide psychiatric consultations.
- Communicate effectively, in both oral and written form.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team setting.
- Maintain beneficial relations with clients and families.
- Work effectively with community agencies in community settings to promote client recovery and rehabilitation from mental illness.

Psychiatrist II and III only (in addition to the above):

- Provide technical guidance and training to subordinate psychiatrists and other staff.

- Supervise subordinates in the absence of the Supervising Psychiatrist.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities, stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Psychiatrist I:

Graduation from an accredited medical school and completion of a three (3) year residency in Psychiatry.

Psychiatrist II:

Graduation from an accredited medical school and completion of a three (3) year residency in Psychiatry, AND, at least two (2) years of professional psychiatric experience.

Psychiatrist III:

Graduation from an accredited medical school and completion of a three (3) year residency in Psychiatry, AND, completion of a two (2) year fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, or Forensic Psychiatry, OR, four (4) years of full-time experience working in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry or Forensic Psychiatry.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

A valid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate is required.

A valid license to practice medicine in the State of California is required.

Background Investigation:

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions, depending upon type, number and recency, may be disqualifying. Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment in Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) programs that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to a background check and a limited security clearance performed by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in the Psychiatrist II and III classes shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).